

# SOME BIG CONTESTS HERE DURING NEXT FEW DAYS

## LOCAL FANS AWAIT GREAT FLOOR GAMES

West Virginia-Normal Game the Best, Fairview on Tuesday.

Basketball fans of this city have a chance to see some great contests between now and the middle of next week, and if any kind of favorable weather prevails the Normal gymnasium should be crowded for these events. Tomorrow night the Fairmont High school team will take a shot at the West Virginia Freshies in what promises to be one of the snappiest little tilts of the season. The next night Harry Stansbury's well known basketball five from the State University at Morgantown will endeavor to put it over on Sandy Toothman's Normal squad. This will be some fight all the way—you can bet on that. Next Tuesday night Fairview High school and Fairmont High school will meet in the second scrap of the season. The first game was staged at Fairview and resulted in an overwhelming defeat for the locals. Kahn's men will be out for revenge next Tuesday, and expect to get it.

With such a menu as this the fans should certainly be well pleased. The Saturday night between the Varsity and Normal will likely draw the greatest crowd of the season. Both teams will be on edge for the contest and the game will be worth going miles to see. According to all the dope, the Varsity and Sandy's team are just about as evenly matched as could be possible, and it will simply be a question of who gets the breaks or manages to slip in the most baskets form difficult angles.

Coach Kahn is working hard to get his team in shape for the game with the Freshies and also with the Fairview team. After the game here on Friday night the Freshies will tackle Fairview on Saturday night. According to reports from Fairview, there will be a great host of rooters come from that town for the game here next Tuesday night. It is likely that one or two special traction cars will be run in order to take care of the fans who want to see the game.

## Three and Two

After managing the Kansas City Blues in the American association for three years, winning a war-time pennant in 1918 and finishing second last year, John Gansel has handed in his resignation. A new game is being put away. What it is he did not say, but his friends know that John has been dabbling in Texas oil lands and that may be the answer.

Gansel's letter to President George Muehlebach, follows:

"I regret very much leaving baseball after being connected with the game so long, but I have fully made up my mind to make a change for at least this year. I will devote all my time and attention to another business."

"I love Kansas City and the good loyal fans. I hope you will put the Blues in first place from the start."

Contracts have been mailed players of the Pittsburgh baseball club by President Barney Dreyfus. He anticipates little trouble this season in gathering his flock together in the training camp.

"We have ordered our pitchers and catchers to report at West Baden on March 1, and the other players to be at Hot Springs on March 8 and any, who have not signed by those dates, will be permitted to report. We have never made it a practice to allow unsigned players to work out with us and I can't see why we should change this year. The Pirates have a 26-player list."

Sitting on the bench sometimes does a youngster good, thinks Heinie Groh, captain of the world champion Reds.

"When I went to the Giants from the Three-Eye league I took along a batting average of about .350 and the reputation of being a good fielder and base runner."

"I figured it would be duck soup to step right into the Giant infield and grab a regular job. McGraw didn't seem to think that way. He showed me a nice quiet place on the bench and it didn't take long for me to learn that McGraw had used me in the right way. I had the natural ability but I lacked experience. I remained on that bench long enough to get wise to the big things big league infielders must know and when I began playing regularly I was able to hold my own."

When Branch Rickey stepped down from president-manager to manager of the Cardinals a few weeks ago it was still generally thought he retained full say-so on any action taken by the St. Louis club. But now they're telling a story around stove league circles that Branch isn't to have full say-so on everything.

At least, he isn't going to have his own way about Rogers Hornsby, the story goes.

The latest tip is out that Rogers Hornsby will be sold to the Giants at the big baseball meeting in Chicago next week. It is said the Cards will take probably four players and some cash in exchange.

Rickey has declared all along that Hornsby would not be sold. He said

HARD TO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOING THIS.



The famous outfielder for the New York Giants attempts to pick 'em off from below as Miss Helen Rosen, California beauty, drops baseballs from an airplane in the skies. Duffy is strong for the new way to keep in training during the winter months. The photo shows Miss Rosen receiving instructions from Lewis on how to drop the "pill" from the sky, prior to a flight.

the club kept Hornsby when money was badly needed and now that the club showed earnings for 1919 it certainly wouldn't entertain any idea of letting the crack infielder go.

Rickey contended that Hornsby belonged with the Cards—that they would be foolish to let such a man go. But other baseball men do not agree with Rickey. Some of the best heads in the game declare they would let Hornsby go if they could get several good players in exchange for him.

The Yankees got Ruth and the Giants have to do something to make themselves solid with the fans of New York. Hornsby is the man they want. Ruth is without doubt the greatest drawing card in the game today. He will draw more fans through the turnstiles than Ty Cobb or Walter Johnson ever attracted. But Hornsby isn't such a flashy player despite the fact he is a wonderful fielding star and a corking good hitter.

Thormahel, one of the best left-handers on the Yanks' staff, and doubly important because most of the stars of the American league hit from the port side of the plate, has signed his 1920 contract with Huggins.

The Phillies are ready to consider a trade for Luderus. It is rumored that they especially want Vic Saler, of the Pirates.

Benny Kauff, having read that he was to be traded, has sent word to the club officials that he will have something to say about where he will go. Maybe McGraw will tell him where he can go.

They had a "Smile Day" down in St. Louis the other day. Rogers Hornsby walked right in the front door of the main office of Sam Breadon, lashed out a fountain pen, gave a certain document the "east and west" and finding certain numerical figures to his liking thereupon affixed his name.

## Baseball Season Opens About Xmas

Incomprehensive cries of "Atta boy", "Slide, you boob", and "Kill the umpire," curious hurtings of a leather sphere, efforts to hit it with a big stick, and the dancing about of queerly attired persons in the midst of a diamond shaped field meant to Argentines that the baseball season had begun in Buenos Aires last Christmas-tide.

To the 3,000 members of the American colony there it was the opening game in preparation for the annual series in the Buenos Aires Baseball league, the winners of which always claim the championship of South America.

The Buenos Aires league consists of teams, composed of employees of three of the North American cold storage plants there, a team of employees of the branch of a New York bank, and a local team picked from the American colony. The "pennant" is a big silver cup, for which the teams have been competing for several years, permanent possession going to the champion of three seasons. There are a number of ex-college stars and some one-time professionals on the teams all of which put forward claims of ability to defeat any North American team that will go down and play them. The season which opened on December 28 will close March 29, the games being played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

## GAME POSTPONED.

MORGANTOWN, Feb. 5.—The basketball game which was to have been played Saturday evening of this week between the High school team and the Alumni five has been called off by Coach Morrison, of the High team, owing to the fact that two of his regulars are sick with mumps. They are Fred Graham who plays center, and Kenneth Simmons, a forward. The Alumni game will, in all probability, be played Wednesday evening, February 11.

To Wheeling. Joseph Ford, of the Carpenter and Ford undertaking establishment, is in Wheeling today on a business trip.

## STILL SEEKS CARDS' BEST BALL PLAYER

McGraw Has Not Given Up Hope for Roger Hornsby.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—Circumstances have conspired to crowd the Giants out of their accustomed place in the public eye this winter, but this condition will probably be remedied in the very near future, when Field Marshal John J. McGraw returns from Cuba to engineer a series of deals intended to reinforce the various weak or threatened sectors of his battle line. Rumor still persists in making Roger Hornsby the central figure in the Little Napoleon's plans, and in this particular instance rumor is as good a guide as any.

That the Giant leader greatly covets Hornsby is an open secret. There was a time last summer when he would gladly have given upward of \$100,000 for the free-swinging, hard-hitting Cardinal star, and the longing for the mighty Texan has not abated one iota since. He still craves Hornsby to succeed Heinie Zimmerman and round out his infield, and at the National League's spring meeting will doubtless make another determined effort to win him from St. Louis.

He will scarcely be deterred by Branch Rickey's repeated declarations that Hornsby is not on the market at any price. Before conceding defeat in his efforts to snag the only man in the National League who is exactly what the Giants need, McGraw will bring such pressure to bear upon the owners of the Cards as they did for them.

Falling to land Hornsby, the Giant leader would be rather hard pressed to snag a first class third baseman. Groh, of course, is beyond his reach and the rest are not an impressive lot. J. Carlisle Smith of the Braves has been mentioned as a Giant possibility and it may be said that this battle-scarred veteran could fill the bill for a single season. It is doubtful, however, if McGraw would turn to him except in a dire emergency.

Beyond repairing such break at third there isn't a great deal for McGraw to do in the way of reconstruction. George Burns, Bennie Kauff and Ross Young still constitute a first class outfield, the battery departments leave but little to be desired, and few if any rival anything on Frank Frisch and Arthur Fletcher around second base. First and third stand out as the only visible weak spots in an otherwise impressive arrangements and if Chase comes back or Kelly comes through there will be no cause to worry over first.

Chase's plans for the future, however, are still somewhat uncertain. Despite denials of a report that he is thinking of retiring, Chase is very likely to be among the missing when the Giants mobilize at San Antonio. He knows that the end of the string is in sight and is anxious to become established in some other profession while still a comparatively young man. If any one of the several propositions he has in mind plans out he will bid the Giants and the diamond a list farewell.

This would leave George Kelly as the only available first baseman, and McGraw might well hesitate before entrusting all his eggs to this uncertain basket. Kelly showed to better advantage last fall than at any other time since he first joined the Giants some years ago and, once properly started, plied a mean pole against all sorts of pitching. The evidence was not exactly conclusive, however, and so, pending assurances that Chase will come back in something approximating his best form of other years, first base may be regarded as a position of doubtful strength.

## Wesleyan Drops Game to Navy

After playing fast basketball during the first half of the game and holding the Navy to 17-16 in the opening round, West Virginia Wesleyan went bad in the last part of the game and lost the floor contest to the Navy by a score of 37-23. The Wesleyan bright lights seemed to have blinded themselves entirely during the first 20 minutes and this was the main reason for the downfall of the Buckhannan lads. The score:

Wesleyan, 23.	Navy, 37.
Ross .....	Byerly
Johnson .....	Burkholder
Snedegar .....	Greber
Stark .....	McLaury
Rohrbough .....	Watters
Field goals: Ross, 4; Johnson, 2; Snedegar, Stark, Byerly, 4; Burkholder, 9; Watters, 2.	
Foul goals: Johnson, 7 out of 14; Watters, 7 out of 14.	
Substitutions: Farnsworth for Rohrbough.	
Referee—Deering.	

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## Some Local Sport Chatter

Among the missionary work for which Harry Stansbury came to Fairmont yesterday was to scout the Normal game last night to see just what the Varsity will be up against Saturday evening. Harry thinks the Varsity has a good chance of getting beat—but then Harry gets so accustomed to putting the Varsity down as being right certain to defeat, that he simply does it off hand. However, we hope he is right in this case, and that the Morgantown bunch gets an awful trimming Saturday evening.

Coach Toothman was at the game last night, but he should have been in bed. He is suffering with a severe cold and was ordered in the house yesterday afternoon by his doctor; but refused to be chained up during the game. "Doc" Garrett took sick yesterday and could not work the game, and Jasper Colebank was secured from Grafton. He got along well, although Jimmie Knight was jabbering away all night like a magpie about being called too often for holding. Perhaps Jimmie was just talkin' to keep warm.

Mike Hamilton shot 29 out of 30 fouls—in practice the other night. He got six out of 11 last night, which is a little above the average for foul shooting on the Normal team. Sandy's men have lost a bunch of points this year for the lack of a dependable foul shooter.

All right, all right, we got Bethany now let's get that bunch from Morgantown. They look all the same when we are running true to form.

We were very glad to see our old friend Longfellow Shuman get a basket or two when they were needed last night, as Shuman has been playing in hard luck recently, making good enough shots, but the durned things would roll all around the baskets without going in.

Lough played a nice, steady game. In fact the whole team was playing good ball. At the same time, it must be remembered that they will have to play better ball than last night a lot to beat West Virginia. However a team as a general rule plays better ball when pitted to the test as the Normal will be on Saturday night with West Virginia.

With Rezzonico playing guard and Beckelheimer coaching, we don't see how Bethany managed to come out of the short end. They sure had the long end on games.

Dunbar high will have a hard battle tomorrow night, when the Fairmont Independents will be taken on. Both teams are on edge for the contest. The game will be called at 8:15.

Got to hand it to old Yumple Yim, minny Knight. When Normal gets right up against it and things look bad you can generally count on Knight to start something to change the entire complexion of the game. Who's all right, Who's all right, Jimmie Knight, rah, rah, rah, sic 'em, boom, boom, yah. Thank you very much.

Harry Stansbury arrived in Fairmont three days before the game between Normal and West Virginia. Bet that guy is going to be up to some tricks. Perhaps he is going to take our stars out to supper and tell them funny stories, making them laugh so hard they will be too sore to play.

Any how it was a nice game, even if it did snow and there were no special cars, and few people attended and everything

Glen Warner, who is reported to know something about football, advises gridiron aspirants to play plenty of basketball. He says basketball is of inestimable value as training for forward passes on the football field. Now some coach will come along with the suggestion that his half-backs take up boxing to help them in their stiff-arm when circling the ends.

A headline in a contemporary says, that the favorite indoor sports are knocking J. Barleycorn and J. Dempsey.

Five leaders of last year's eastern college football eleven have been re-named for 1920. They are: Tim Callahan of Yale, Edw. Ewan of the Navy, Benny Boynton of Williams, "Bo" McMillan of Centre, and "Pard" Larkin of Swarthmore.

Followers of the sport of kings, who visit the 100-day race meet at Tijuana, Mexico, across the California line, must first visit immigration authorities and secure passports. A 10-day limit and a photograph are features of the government permits.

The Hawaiian branch of the A. A. U. has arranged two national swimming events on April 17 and 18. The two events are for the 1920 100-yard senior for women and the 100-yard junior for men. Duke Kahanamoku and Norman Ross will compete.

The Columbia varsity crew will leave for its quarters at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on June 7 to begin preparation for the intercollegiate regatta. Coach Jim Rice says the reduction of the course from four to three miles will not shorten the training period of the Blue and White.

Homer Martin's return to the University fold will be welcomed by undergrads, and outside enthusiasts alike. He made a mistake in ever leaving school and he himself was the first to find out after he had departed. Martin had no scholastic difficulties of a serious nature and had successfully passed the greater part of all his school work. He will unquestionably be a welcome addition to the basketball squad if he decides to join the squad and because he is such a sensational short, and such an expert floor man, can be counted upon to greatly strengthen the team's offense.

## Baseball Letters In Mail Tomorrow

Letters inviting baseball leaders to a big conference at the Y. M. C. A. next Monday evening will be mailed out in time to be received in the mails tomorrow, according to an announcement made from the Y. M. C. A. at noon today. While the suggestion of two leagues will not be incorporated in the letter it is understood that the proposition will be given some discussion at the meeting next Monday. It is hoped that there will be a representative gathering at the next baseball session and that a definite program can be mapped out for the season. The invitation to the meeting will outline the Y. M. C. A.'s proposition along the lines mentioned in Tuesday's West Virginian.

Secretary of Labor Wilson has announced the ruling that the Communist party of America is "a revolutionary party" and membership in that party furnishes ground sufficient for deportation.

## NORMAL TEAM TAKES BATTLE FROM BETHANY

Locals Forced to Play Great Ball to Land the Contest.

After the Normal lads had apparently put last night's game with Bethany safely in the Normal's refrigerator, the visitors sneaked the game out of the ice and put it back in the Bethany frying pan, and it was only by some great work by Jimmie Knight and Longfellow Shuman that the Normal finally snatched the game out of the fire just before the final whistle sounded, the final count being 32-23.

Only a small crowd attended the game, the weather, the "flu" and other things conspired to keep the people away—but those who did brave the elements to see the contest witnessed one of the closest, most interesting and most exciting games staged here this season.

Pete Hamilton was in his glory last night at one of the guards, ranting and snorting and banging away all through the game. It was Lough and Hamilton who kept the Bethany lads from making more field baskets during their sensational rally late in the game. Sensational shots were many, Knight getting several long shots from difficult angles, Mike Hamilton chased in two or three beauties while Longfellow Shuman, who has been having hard luck lately on his shots, caged one from past mid-floor that was a corker and broke the lead which Bethany maintained for just a minute or two during the second half of the contest.

Roark was the best shooter for the visitors, getting five field baskets, while Osborne shot eight out of 11 fouls. Rezzonico and Hughes played at guards for the visitors and did great work in the second period.

When the first half ended it did not seem that the local lads would have much trouble in landing the game, the score being 18-11 when the halfway mark was reached. However, the Bethany bunch came back with a great fighting spirit and kept going so fast that they not only tied the score two or three times, but led for a brief time. With only a few minutes to play, Knight, Shuman and Mike Hamilton saved the day by some exceptionally fast floor work and clever shooting. The score:

Fairmont, 32.	Bethany, 23.
Knights .....	Osborne
H. Hamilton .....	Roark
Shuman .....	Forward
Lough .....	Center
P. Hamilton .....	Hughes
Field baskets—Fairmont: Knight, 7; M. Hamilton, 4; Shuman, 2; Bethany: Osborne, 2; Roark, 5; Randolph, 2; Rezzonico, 1.	

Foul baskets—Fairmont: M. Hamilton, 6 in 11; Bethany: Osborne, 8 in 11; Roark, none in 2.  
Referee—Jasper Colebank, W. V. U.

The staple crop of China is said to be sweet potatoes. There is no part which does not raise them.

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